

Public Hearing

Formation of the Regional Emergency Services Authority

Chiques Church, Manheim, PA

August 31, 2022, 7-9 pm



Public Hearing Agenda

Topic: Formation of the Regional Emergency Services Authority

1. Welcome, Roll Call and Purpose of Hearing

John Yoder, Township Manager, West Donegal Township

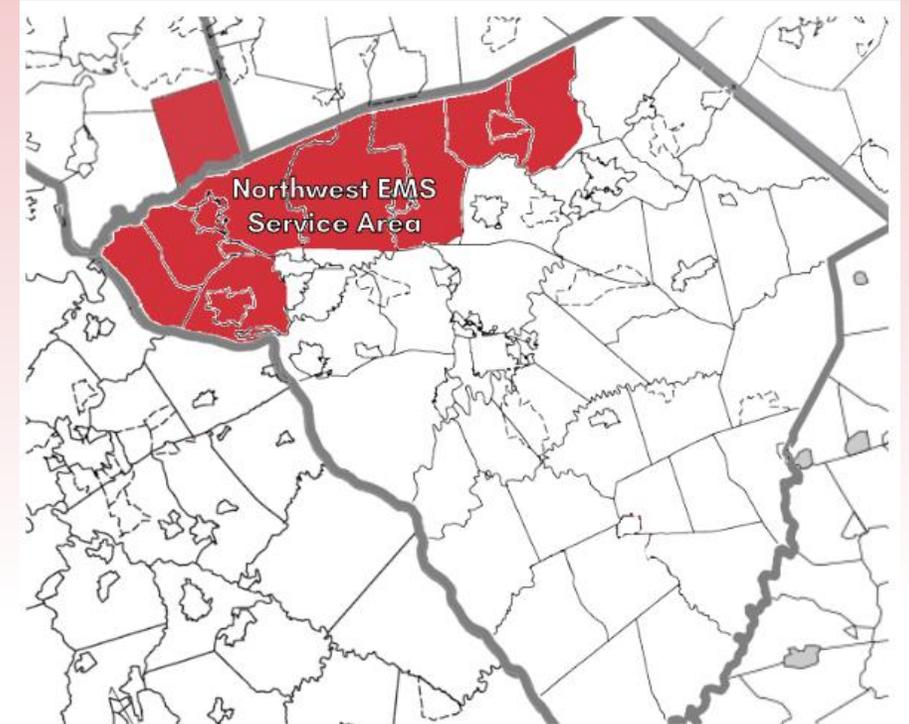
2. Presentation on the Authority

Marc Hershey, President, Elizabethtown Borough Council
Lowell Fry, Chairperson, Rapho Township

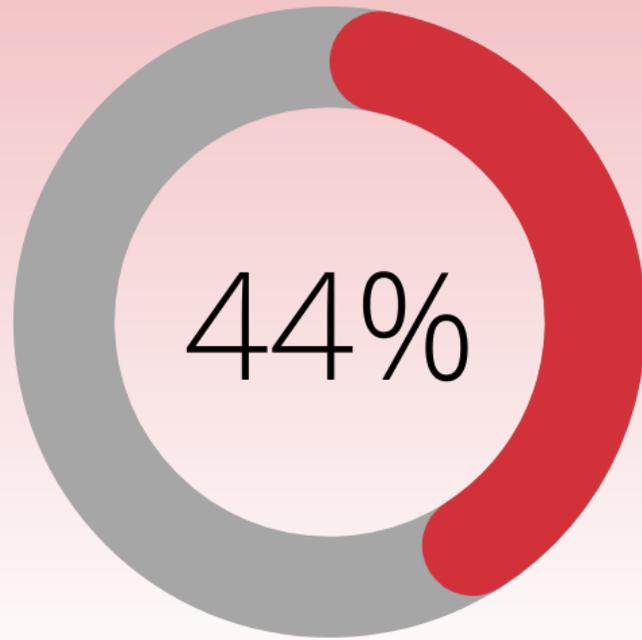
3. Public Comment Period

Emergency Services in our Region

- **Currently provided by Northwest EMS**
 - Basic Life Support (BLS): stabilize patients for further care at hospitals
 - Advanced Life Support (ALS): critical emergencies, immediate intensive care
 - Ready to answer the call 24/7
 - Responds to about 25 calls per day
 - Dispatches up 24% from 2016 to 2021
 - EMS Agency of the Year in PA (2020)



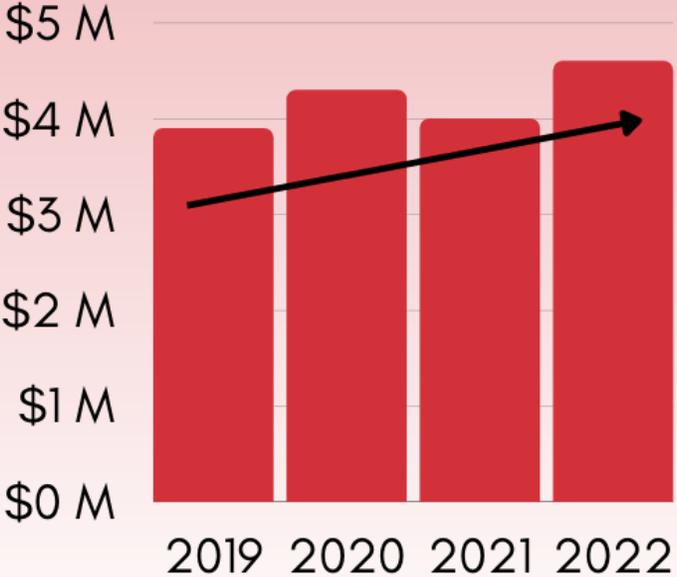
The Local EMS Crisis



Subscriptions

- Only 44% of the community are Northwest EMS subscribers
- 56% of the community does not contribute

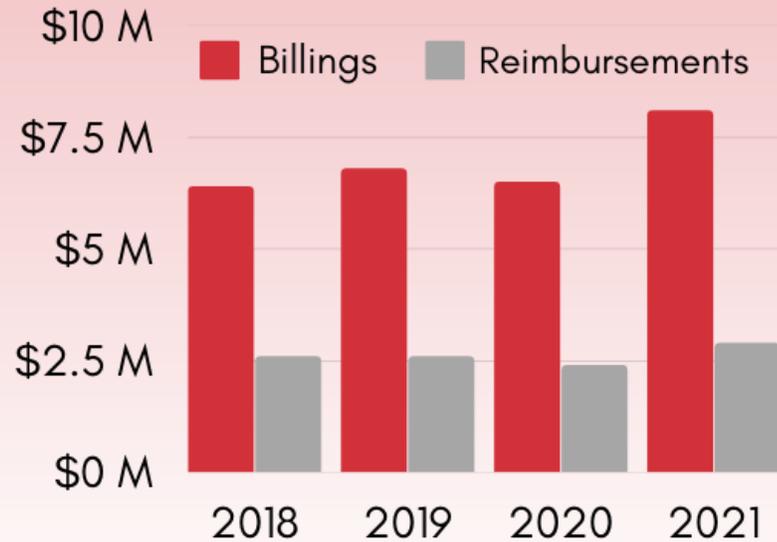
The Local EMS Crisis



Expenses

- Northwest EMS’s costs are rising for equipment, fuel, training, and wages and benefits that attract and retain EMTs and paramedics

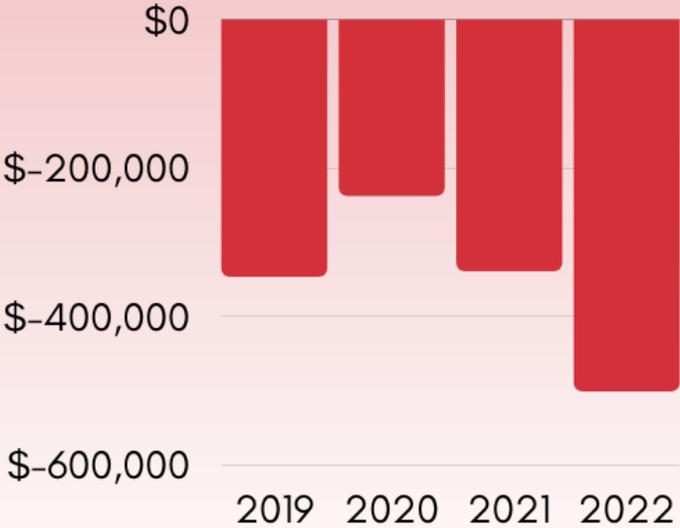
The Local EMS Crisis



Reimbursements

- Insurance reimbursements account for less than 40% of cost of service and remain flat
- Average gap between Northwest EMS gross billings and insurance payments is \$4.3 million a year

The Local EMS Crisis



Deficits

- Northwest EMS’s funding sources are insufficient to cover its costs
- Expected budget shortfall for 2022 is over \$500,000

**EMS services in our
community are at risk.**

**Municipalities in our region are
joining together to create a local
solution to ensure that EMS services
continue to be available 24/7.**

A New Community Model for EMS Services

- Municipal leaders and Northwest EMS Board meeting quarterly since 2018
- At the start of 2021, Northwest EMS leaders, volunteers and local municipal leaders began exploring alternatives
- Committee proposed creation of a regional Emergency Services Authority to address the challenge and fulfill the statutory requirement for municipalities to provide EMS services



Municipal Partners

- Clay Township
- Conewago Township
- Conoy Township
- East Donegal Township
- Elizabethtown Borough
- Elizabeth Township
- Manheim Borough
- Marietta Borough
- Mount Joy Township
- Penn Township
- Rapho Township
- West Donegal Township

Regional Emergency Services Authority

- Municipal-led administrative services authority
- Provide 911 EMS response to member and contracted municipalities primarily in the authority's service area
- Founding municipalities to have representation on Authority's board
- Will charge a reasonable and uniform fee to property owners, on par with today's Northwest EMS subscription rates (replacing municipal contributions to Northwest EMS and membership subscriptions)
- Will advertise and hold a public hearing on proposed services and rates prior to any fees being assessed
- Community to have a subsequent voice, even after Authority is formed

Common Questions

Who will be creating the Regional Emergency Services Authority?

- Local municipalities in our region will be creating the Authority as a solution to our local EMS crisis
- The Authority board will consist a of representative designated by each of the founding municipalities
- The community will have a voice in the Authority through future public hearings on services and rates and regular monthly meetings of the Authority board

Common Questions

As a property owner, how much will I have to pay?

- Property owners would pay an annual fee on par with today's Northwest EMS subscription rates (\$70-85 per residential housing unit)
- Separate tiers would be set for commercial and institutional properties
- The Authority board will determine fees once the authority is formed
- Another public hearing will be held on proposed services and rates

The Authority will not have the ability to provide services or charge fees until after that second public hearing (tentatively in February 2023)

Common Questions

I have insurance. Will I still have to pay the annual fee?

- Yes. The proposed fee will cover the cost of “readiness of service” – ensuring that EMS services are always at the ready if needed
- Insurance reimbursements for EMS services only cover less than 40% of the cost of service
- The annual fee will fund the balance of operational expenses, ensuring readiness to answer calls and fiscal stability

Common Questions

What will I receive for my annual fee?

- Readiness to answer calls in the event that EMS services are needed
- Residents served by the Authority would not receive residual bills for EMS services if their insurance pays toward an ambulance bill
- Residents would receive 50% off their ambulance bill if they have no insurance or if their entire bill goes toward their insurance deductible

Common Questions

Will the new Authority replace Northwest EMS?

- The regional Emergency Services Authority will be the new entity to provide EMS services for our region
- The Authority will consist of the same outstanding people and deliver the outstanding service for which Northwest EMS is known

New entity, new name... same Northwest EMS people and services!

Tentative Timeline

Aug. 31, 2022 (Tonight)	Public Hearing on Incorporation of the Authority
Oct. 2022	Municipalities Enact Ordinances to Incorporate Authority
Oct. – Nov. 2022	PA Department of State Reviews and Approves Incorporation of the Authority
Nov. 2022 – Feb. 2023	New Authority Board Establishes Bylaws, Budget, Services and Fees
Feb. 2023	Public Hearing on Proposed Services and Fees
Fall 2023	Authority Begins Providing EMS Services

Public Comment Period

Topic: Formation of the Regional Emergency Services Authority

- Please state your full name
- Please state your street address and municipality of residence
- Please adhere to 3-minute time limit as a courtesy to others who wish to comment

Information and FAQs at:

SavingEMSforNWLancaster.org